

REMARKS

Claims 1-14 are rejected by the Office Action date December 14, 2005. No claims are amended by the current response. Claims 1-14 are currently pending.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 1-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the Applicant regards as the invention. Specifically, the Office Action indicates the term “derivative” renders the claim indefinite. This rejection is traversed.

The Specification provides ample description by what is meant by a polyisoprene derivative within the context of the claims. The Specification describes how useful polyisoprenes can be “degraded” rubbers or “built-up” rubber derivatives, and that the most important factor is weight average molecular weight. See Specification at page 7, lines 18-21. The Specification further defines polyisoprene derivatives to include modified rubbers, such as modified liquid polyisoprene rubber having added N-hydroxyhydrocarbyl-maleimide as one example. See Specification at page 8, lines 21-25. While not an exhaustive list, the Specification provides enough information to those skilled in the art to determine the meaning of the term “polyisoprene derivative” in the claims.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) or 103(a)

Claims 1-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) or § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,616,991 to Uto (hereinafter “Uto”). The Office Action indicates that examples 2 and 5 in Uto disclose ink formulations with a polyisoprene component. This rejection is traversed.

None of the examples of Uto disclose or describe ink formulations, and therefore, examples 2 and 5 do not disclose ink formulations with a polyisoprene component. The examples of Uto describe the preparation of a coating solution that is coated on an ink-receiving layer. The process results in the preparation of an ink jet recording material, on which a non-aqueous ink (not described with any particularity) is deposited. See Uto at col. 7, line 32 - col. 9,

line 10. Comparative examples are also provided to contrast to those examples. See Uto at col. 9, lines 12 -16.

Uto then describes how the comparison is made: "A square solid printed pattern was printed on an ink jet printer . . . **with a black ink** on each ink jet recording material for a non-aqueous ink prepared in the above Examples 1 to 7 and Comparative Examples 1 to 6, and was evaluated by the following method . . ." Uto at col. 10, line 6-11 (emphasis added). As for the results, Uto indicates, "[A]s evident from Examples 5 to 7, a long term preservability (resistance to yellow coloration) of a white paper portion could be improved by using a hydrogenated liquid polyisoprene as a liquid rubber." Uto at col. 12 lines 35-39. Therefore, Uto does not disclose an ink formulation with a polyisoprene component as Uto is not directed to ink formulations, but rather ink jet recording material.

In contrast, the present invention as claimed recites ink formulations comprising a polyisoprene derivative. As such the present invention as claimed is neither described in nor suggested by Uto.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that all pending claims are in condition for allowance and request that all claims be allowed. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned should he believe that this would expedite prosecution of this application. It is believed that no fee is required. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-2165.

Respectfully submitted,

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